



Outside Online

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Gear Shopping with Ski Bums
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When it comes to ski gear, the most discerning, jaded shoppers are without a doubt ski town locals. Since ski bums often have access to it all, and they are usually difficult to please. Quality, performance...and never forget style (hey-you've got to have your own steez) all factor in the decision on what to buy for the season.

And sure, it's supposed to be that gift-giving time of year, but since full-time skiers are a bit selfish to begin with, we are still thinking of ourselves. Here I've rounded up a few slightly off the radar options that are becoming ever more popular with the choosey skids in my ski town. Use these gifts to spread snowy holiday cheer-or just keep them for yourself.

While you maybe able to get away with work gloves, the same is not true for packs, whether you just want to take lunch and spare goggles or hit up backcountry laps, it's an item that needs to be perfect to you and for the task. Which is why after a few years of dealing with less than perfect packs for me, I've returned to Osprey Packs, whose main focus is fit and options. They offer sizing charts to get the best fit horizontally and vertically, options like different ski carry methods and helmet carries, and usefully placed but not excessive pockets. And thanks to Osprey's bomber construction, once you get everything dialed in, your pack will last for seasons of abuse.

